

Swallowtail News



With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!

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June 2025 Newsletter

Message from Mrs Butcher

Dear families

I am delighted to share with you that Miss Blake, who is currently senior teacher at Hickling, will become the Federation Assistant Head Teacher from September 2025. She will continue with 60% teaching responsibility at Hickling with the remaining 40% being taught by Mrs Pell. Her new role will have a key focus on attendance as well as curriculum development across the Federation. Congratulations and very well deserved, Miss Blake!

Next week all children will be taking part in transition days. Our year 2 children will be joining their key stage 2 schools and our Year 6 children will be visiting their high schools. We wish them lots of luck and know they will be amazing!

In school, the children will also be moving into their new classes. As we have mixed aged classes, for some this will be staying in their current class and welcoming in new friends.

You will have no doubt seen in social media and across the news the impact on schools with falling birth rates. The Swallowtail federation is no exception to this. Many schools locally and nationally have had to make the difficult decision of losing staff to allow their budgets to balance. I am thrilled to say that we have not been impacted in the same way and all current staff will remain working in the Federation. This is solely because of the fact we are a federation and how we run. You'll often hear us say we are like just one big school across three sites and that really is true. By sharing our staff and resources we are able to continue to provide our children with an amazing education. In addition, we are blessed to have very small class sizes which means all children get a very high level of support and each individual is valued and understood.

Next year, all teachers will be remaining in their current classes. The only exception is at Catfield, where the lovely Miss Everett will be joining the team to teach Cheetahs. To be able to keep our current staffing levels, there will be a much more fluid approach with support staff. With many working across different classes and schools. This means you may see some familiar faces and some new ones. We are such a close knit team, with a shared curriculum and understanding of how things work in each school, so are confident this will be a successful model. It is important to say that if some staff are no longer at your child's school next year, it does not mean they have left. We have worked incredibly hard to ensure the correct skills, qualifications and levels of supervision are in place, to ensure all children receive the very best education and keep our small schools thriving.

I am sure you all know how passionate I am about small schools and that is exactly why I chose to be the head of this federation. I believe that children get as good an offer, if not better, than when attending a larger school. We have the most beautiful buildings and grounds, are able to offer forest schools and have nurturing environments where everyone is part of a family. I know many of you feel the same and that is why you have chosen to send your child here. I cannot emphasise enough what a fortunate position we are in compared to so many schools. Our vision of 'friendship' truly in action, with the strength of working together and being part of a bigger community.

I look forward to seeing all the children during the transition days enjoying time in their new classes.

Next year the teaching staff at Hickling will be as follows:

Class teachers (YR/1/2): Miss Blake and Mrs Pell

Teaching support staff:

Miss Turner (pre-school manager but will also support across the whole school)

Mrs Madden

We know you all agree that our small class sizes are a real blessing and provide a wonderful education for our children but we know you sometimes worry about the social element. For this reason, we want to extend our offer across the infant schools next year where children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will come together for an afternoon fortnightly to socialise and learn. There will be nothing for you to do as we will be able to transport the children in our amazing new mini-bus. More details to follow at the beginning of next year.

Kind regards,

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head,
The Swallowtail Federation

News:

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Whilst you will already be aware that we are a nut free school, I wish to stress the importance of nut and nut products not coming into school. A member of our school community is anaphylaxis therefore we must ensure high vigilance at all times. Thank you for ensuring we keep everyone safe in school.

- **BINGO** – Due to a lack of interest, we have made the sad decision to cancel our bingo fundraising event on Wednesday 2nd July.
- Donations kitchen of old but safe pots, pans and other kitchen equipment for our new mud kitchen.
- Transition Days are next week. If your child is transitioning to Stalham, please ensure you organise your own transport in line with their start and finish times for the day.
- Clubs will go ahead as normal next week. If your child is at Stalham Academy, please drop them back to Hickling for their club at 3.20pm.
- Please ensure payments for Bewilderwood and Campout are paid by the beginning of July.
- As part of Hickling transition days next week, the children will need their PE kit on the Tuesday and Forest School kit on the Wednesday.

Please see curriculum piece attached for RE.

Attendance Year-to-Date for Puffins: 94.33%

Attendance Year-to-Date for Kingfishers: 95.64%



KS1 trip to Willow Farm



Diary dates

Monday 30th June and Tuesday 1st July – Key Stage 1 parent consultations

Tuesday 1st July and Wednesday 2nd July - Transition Days (Stalham children will also have Thursday 3rd)

Tuesday 8th July – Sports Day and Picnic – 11am – Families welcome

Monday 14th July - Year 2 treat trip to Bewilderwood

Wednesday 16th July – Reserve Sports Day and Picnic – 11am – Families welcome

Wednesday 16th July - Swallowtail Arts Festival, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Thursday 17th July – After School Cake Sale – Donations to be brought to the office on Wednesday 16th or the morning of Thursday 17th July.

Thursday 17th July - Key stage 1 trip to St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich.

Thursday 17th July - KS1 Campout - Arrive at 5pm

Monday 21st July – Year 2 Leavers Service – 9am – Year 2 families only

Monday 21st July - Swallowtail Arts Festival reserve date

Tuesday 22nd July – End of Term Church Service, St Mary's Hickling, 2pm, children to go home afterwards.

Tuesday 22nd July – Last day of term

Please see the attached thankyou poster regarding the Spacemail Challenge, I can confirm that all children in Kingfisher Class will have their postcard sent to Space!!!

Safeguarding

Some links for e-safety:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online->

Stay up to date...

Website: <http://www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk/>

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